

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



**BUREAU**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of

**12-12-2016**

Louise WEISS Building - Room R1.1

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**Strasbourg**



**BUREAU**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of Monday, 12 December 2016  
from 18:30 to 20:30 hours

Louise WEISS Building, Room R 1.1

**Strasbourg**

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BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of Monday, 12 December 2016

Strasbourg

Mr Martin SCHULZ, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting at 18.37 hours.

Present

Martin SCHULZ, President\*

Vice-Presidents

Excused

Mr TAJANI\*  
Ms McGUINNESS\*  
Mr WIELAND\*  
Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO\*  
Ms GÁLL-PELCZ  
Ms VĀLEAN\*  
Ms GUILLAUME\*  
Mr PAȘCU\*  
Mr SASSOLI\*  
Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI\*  
Mr LAMBSDORFF\*  
Ms LUNACEK\*  
Mr PAPADIMOULIS\*  
Mr CZARNECKI

Quaestors

Excused

Ms MORIN-CHARTIER\*  
Mr LIBERADZKI\*  
Ms BEARDER\*  
Mr KOVATCHEV\*  
Mr KARSKI\*

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General\*

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\* present for Items 7, 8, 9 and 22 *in camera*

Mr WINKLER, Deputy Secretary-General and Director-General DG PRES

List of officials present at the meeting:

Private Office of the President

Mr KNUDSEN\*\*  
 Ms BLAU\*  
 Mr KOEKKOEK  
 Mr FASSINA  
 Mr DREUTE\*\*\*  
 Ms BOVEINGTON-FAURAN  
 Mr KLEINER

Private Office of the Secretary-General

Mr MANGOLD\*  
 Ms LUEDDECKE  
 Mr MARTINELLI

Private Office of the Deputy Secretary-General

Ms JIMENEZ LOZANO

Secretariat

DG Internal Policies (IPOL)	Mr RIBERA D'ALCALA
DG External Policies (EXPO)	Mr AGUIRIANO
DG Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS)	Mr TEASDALE
DG Information (COMM)	Ms RUHRMANN
	Mr DUCH-GUILLOT
	Ms VAN DEN BROEKE****
DG Infrastructure and Logistics (INLO)	Ms LINNUS**
DG Translation (TRAD)	Mr MAVRIC
DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE)	Ms WALTER-DROP
DG Finance (FINS)	Mr KLETHI
	Mr REIJNDERS****
	Mr BETZ****

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\*\* present for Item 7 *in camera*

\* present for Items 7, 8, 9 and 22 *in camera*

\*\*\* present for Items 7 and 22 *in camera*

\*\*\*\* present only for Items 4, 5 and 6

DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC)	Mr VILELLA ****
DG Security and Safety (SAFE)	Mr CAROZZA **
Legal Service	Mr DREXLER, Jurisconsult*
Director for the Relations with Political Groups	Mr SCHWETZ
Conference of President's Secretariat	Ms WOLLNY

Political group secretariats

Mr EVISON	(EPP)
Mr HORNAK	(S&D)
Mr DANECKI	(ECR)
Ms GLATIGNY	(ALDE)
Mr KONTONIS	(GUE/NGL)
Mr DENKINGER	(GREENS/EFA)
Ms LALOUX	(EFDD)
Mr CAMPOMENOSI	(ENF)
Mr GLASER	(Non-attached Members)

Vice-Presidents' and Quaestors' assistants

Ms SALVELLI	Mr TAJANI
Ms O'HEA	Ms McGUINNESS
Ms KRONTAL	Mr WIELAND
Ms DIAZ BLANCO	Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO
Mr LOVAS	Ms GÁLL-PELCZ
Ms CUEVAS HERMAN	Ms VÁLEAN
Ms BARREIRA	Ms GUILLAUME
Mr VINTILA	Mr PAȘCU
Mr COBUCCI	Mr SASSOLI
Ms LEINONEN	Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI
Mr KLEEMANN	Mr LAMBSDORFF
Ms ROSENBERG	Ms LUNACEK
Mr ALATOPOULOS	Mr PAPADIMOULIS
Ms SOBKIEWICZ	Mr CZARNECKI
Mr RICHARD	Ms MORIN-CHARTIER
Mr VOGT	Mr LIBERADZKI
Ms KONTÁR	Ms BEARDER
Ms STANEVA	Mr KOVATCHEV
Mr SKOCZEK	Mr KARSKI

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\*\*\*\* present for Item 8 *in camera*



Mr TZIORKAS\*, Mr CORLETT, Ms MORGADO and Mr CALINOGLOU acted as secretary to the meeting.

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\* present for Items 7, 8, 9 and 22 *in camera*

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The Bureau,

- noted the draft agenda (PE 595.135/BUR) and adopted it as shown in these minutes.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2016

The Bureau,

- approved the Minutes of the Bureau meeting of 21 November 2016 held in Strasbourg (PE 590.403/BUR).

3. Communications by the President

3.1. Tribute to Herwig KAISER

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform that Herwig KAISER, Director-General for Personnel, 58 years old, had died suddenly in the night from 5 to 6 December; Herwig KAISER was an extraordinary man and seldom can so many qualities be found together in one person; he had an impressive sense of humanity, he was cultivated and multi-talented, he had an uncommon sense of precision and of duty, always willing to self-sacrifice for the benefit of the others; no extra time or extra effort were too great for him; as a background, Herwig KAISER was a lawyer but also a theatre director and play writer; he had been for many years an official in the secretariat of the S&D group and became then deputy head of his private office; since 2014 he was Director-General for Personnel, a post to which he had been unanimously appointed by the Bureau;
- observed a minute of silence in the memory of Herwig KAISER.

3.2. Remembrance day for the Holocaust

The Bureau,

- heard the President recall that Parliament organises every year an event on the occasion of the remembrance day for the Holocaust, which falls on 27 January, the day when the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated; as in 2017 this day falls on a Friday, the event will be moved to Wednesday 25 January; Beate and Serge KLARSFELD have been invited as speakers for their contribution to the work in the search for Nazi criminals and their communication effort on the Holocaust to the younger generations.

3.3. Sanctions to Members for infringements to the Code of Conduct

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform that the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members had issued a recommendation to sanction two Members for infringement of the Code of Conduct and that he planned to sanction them with a reprimand; firstly, Mr Udo VOIGT, Member, who has travelled to Syria on the invitation of the regime to undertake a propaganda tour and failed to declare this trip in his declaration of financial interests; he has finally very reluctantly done so, but only after a lengthy correspondence with his legal counsellor, maintaining the view that he is not obliged by the Code of Conduct to declare such a travel; secondly, Mr Béla KÓVACS, Member, for infringing of Article 1 of the Code of Conduct.

A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS4. Grants to the political parties and foundations at European level for 2017 grant award - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,<sup>1</sup>

- took note of the note dated 5 December 2016 from the Secretary-General, concerning the grants to the political parties and foundations at European level for 2017 grant award (PE 595.195/BUR and annexes);
- heard the Secretary-General present the background to the topic mentioning that:
  - further to previous decisions by the Bureau three parties and foundations (MELD, FELD and OEIC) had recently filed for bankruptcy, meaning that, given the advanced payments made by Parliament, approximately EUR 220,000 would be lost since the parties and partners in question were no longer operational - hence the imperative to take risk avoidance measures in future to avoid other similar cases such as with ADDE, APF and CVF which may not be fully compliant with the applicable rules and requirements for financial support;
  - for those parties where the risk analysis, which is foreseen in the Financial Regulation, shows reasons for caution, pre-financing arrangements should be reduced from 80% to 40%, combined with a bank guarantee to mitigate any possible risks;
  - under the related item 5 of the Agenda, the OEIC foundation is now declared bankrupt so the remainder of the 2016 financing should be cancelled and the accounts with OEIC can be quickly closed;

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<sup>1</sup> The Bureau debated jointly items 4, 5 and 6 of the Agenda.

- under the related item 6 of the Agenda, payments to the IDDE Party should be suspended until further notice due to a link between own resources and contracts with donors in blatant breach of the relevant rules;
- held an exchange of views with Ms GUILLAUME, Ms LUNACEK, Mr LAMBSDORFF, Mr PAPADIMOULIS and Ms McGUINNESS Vice-Presidents who:
  - expressed their overall support with the proposed decisions, while thanking and congratulating Parliament's financial services for investigating and rigorously pursuing cases of breaches of the rules, which led to the discovering of these irregularities and the protection of EU funds;
  - welcomed the fact that the relevant rules on party financing are now being enforced and measures taken against those abusing the rules, suggesting that they could go even further with regards to those parties whose eligibility is in doubt, for instance, by reducing pre-financing from 80% to 40% or even by eliminating pre-financing all together;
  - underlined that Parliament should prepare a water-tight legal case in case its decisions are challenged in court;
  - enquired about any follow-up from the Commission to the letter from the President requesting the Commission to take a legislative initiative to deal with the issue of members of the same national party being members of different European parties in order to abuse the rules on party financing;
  - questioned the legitimacy of using EU funds to finance parties fundamentally opposed to EU values or whose sole aim is to destroy the EU;
  - enquire about the possibilities for recovery of lost monies and validity of bank guarantees;

- enquire about progress in the case involving the Austrian Freedom Party whose members were using their credentials to help found several different parties at European level in order to claim funding;
- heard Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President, specify that the S&D Group was against the funding of the APF and ETN parties and of CFC and Pegasus;
- heard the President note that completely eliminating pre-financing might not be possible, but if there were no legal objections, pre-financing could further be reduced to one third of the amount (33%), instead of 40%, and agree to further pursue the outstanding matter of the multiple membership in European parties of members of the same national party with the President of the European Commission who at a personal level is favourable, but the Commission services are rather reluctant to consider already now the revision of a Regulation, which will enter into force only on 1 January 2017;
- heard the Secretary General confirm that bank guarantees, where required for pre-financing, must be provided by accredited financial institutions with a minimum level of credit rating and that the problems related to respect for EU values had been passed on to the AFCO committee and the European Commission to propose solutions; confirm also that bankruptcy procedures are determined in accordance with national law in the relevant Member State where it occurs;
- approved the award of a grant for 2017 to 16 parties and 15 foundations, as detailed in the note from the Secretary-General, taking into account the result and conclusion of the evaluation;
- approved that for 7 beneficiaries (parties: ADDE, APF, CVF, EUD and foundations: ETN, FP and IDDE), based on the risk analysis, appropriate risk mitigation measures must be applied as pre-condition for the payment of the pre-financing, which should be limited, in these cases, to 33%;



- suspended, additionally, the payment of pre-financing of the 2017 grant for the IDDE foundation due to presumed irregularities until the verification is terminated;
- prolonged the pre-financing payment deadline to 15 January 2017, taking into account the availability of the appropriations from the 2017 budget only from the beginning of the financial year;
- authorised the Secretary General to inform applicants of the decision taken by the Bureau on their applications and instructed the responsible authorising officer by delegation to make the corresponding payment.

5. Termination of the grant to the European political foundation ‘Organisation for European Interstate Cooperation (OEIC)’ - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate<sup>1</sup>,

- took note of a note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the termination of the grant to the European political foundation ‘Organisation for European Interstate Cooperation (OEIC)’ (PE 595.179/BUR);
- decided, pursuant to Article II 9.2 of the grant award decision and Article 8 (d) of the Bureau decision of 29 March 2004,
  - to terminate the grant award decision for 2016 to OEIC amounting to EUR 254,395;
  - to initiate the termination procedure of the 2016 grant to OEIC.

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<sup>1</sup> See joint debate under item 4 above.

6. Grants awarded for 2015 - Suspension of the payment of the final payment to the European political foundation IDDE - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate<sup>1</sup>,

- took note of a note dated 5 December 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the ‘Grants awarded for 2015 - Suspension of the payment of the final payment to the European political foundation IDDE (PE 595.192/BUR);
- suspended the final payment of EUR 88,924.58 to IDDE until the investigation of the presumed irregularities is terminated.

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<sup>1</sup> See joint debate under item 4 above.

**From 19.42 hours in camera**7. Progress report on security measures and undergoing works enforcing the infrastructure of the European Parliament - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- took note of a note dated 5 December 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the ‘Progress of the various security measures and work to improve infrastructure approved by the Bureau (PE 595.194/BUR and annex), forwarded under a separate confidential cover;
- heard the Secretary-General outline the whole series of measures taken in order to tighten up Parliament’s security arrangements in the complex political and security situation which persists since 2014, while ensuring that Parliament remains an open, transparent and accessible institution, noting in particular political measures concerning relations with the national authorities of the host countries and other institutions, measures to upgrade Parliament’s buildings and internal measures, as well as their respective budgets;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr TAJANI, Vice-President responsible for security, Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Mr LAMBSDORFF, Ms LUNACEK, Vice-Presidents, Mr KARKSI, Quaestor, and the President, who all expressed their strong satisfaction for the enhanced security measures which have been put in place, significantly contributing in making the European Parliament a safer and more secure institution, while noting some concerns about specific measures (e.g. armed guards);
- heard the President, Mr TAJANI, Vice-President responsible, and the Secretary-General provide the required explanations, stressing that, both for reasons of security as well as for openness, all security measures will be implemented with the necessary discretion and in accordance with the standards and conditions applying in the host countries;

- noted the progress of the various security measures taken by Parliament not only at political and internal level but also with regard to infrastructure by means of work to upgrade buildings carried out in close cooperation between DG SAFE and DG INLO, as described in the note from the Secretary-General;
- approved the security measures planned for the KAD II and WIM Buildings and their respective budgets, as presented by the Secretary-General;
- authorised the Secretary-General and the departments concerned to initiate the necessary procedures to implement these measures.

8. Staff matters8.1. Appointment of the new Director-General for Communication

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- took note of a note dated 12 December 2016 from the Secretary-General, forwarded under a separate confidential cover, concerning a recommendation to the President and members of the Bureau for the filling of the post of Director-General in the Directorate-General for Communication (PE 595.218/BUR and annex);
- heard the Secretary-General propose, in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Advisory Committee, that the post be filled by Mr DUCH, Director in DG COMM and Parliament's Press speaker, outlining the specific profile and professional career of Mr DUCH and noting his conviction that Mr DUCH is the right person for this very difficult job, particularly in view of the coming, crucial European elections;
- heard the President concur with the proposal from the Secretary-General, noting his close cooperation with and the specific skills of Mr DUCH, who has already been performing for a long period of time, very successfully and with the necessary composure but also decisiveness, the highly demanding job of Parliament's Spokesperson;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr TAJANI, Ms LUNACEK, Ms GUILLAUME, Ms McGUINNESS and Mr VALCÁRCEL, Vice-Presidents, Mr KARSKI and Ms BEARDER, Quaestors, who all expressed their support for the proposal of the Secretary-General that Mr DUCH be appointed Director-General in the Directorate-General for Communication, without prejudice to his function as Spokesperson;
- decided to appoint Mr DUCH GUILLOT to the post of Director-General of Communication, with effect from 1 February 2017.

8.2. Filling of the post of Director-General for Personnel

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- heard the Secretary-General explain that due to the sudden death in the night of 5 December of Herwig KAISER, Director-General for Personnel, a number of organisational decisions were necessary:
  - the Bureau is asked to launch the procedure for the filling of the post of Director-General for Personnel;
  - Mr VILLELA, Director-General for DG ITEC, had been provisionally appointed as acting Director-General for DG PERS, in addition to his responsibilities of DG ITEC, in order to ensure the immediate continuity of business;
  - however, due to the important workload and the complexity of matters, and in agreement with the President, he had decided to appoint Mr KNUDSEN, Director and currently Head of the President's Private Office, as full-time acting Director-General for DG PERS, until the selection procedure is concluded and the Bureau has appointed a new Director-General for DG PERS;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms LUNACEK and Mr PAPANIMOULIS, Vice-Presidents, and Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, who requested that female candidates should be motivated to apply, and that in general the selection procedure takes account of the necessary gender balance and the need to appoint more women to Directors-General posts;
- heard Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, concur with the need for more gender balance, while stressing that also regional balance was necessary as officials from the new Member States were underrepresented in the higher management posts;

- took note of the appointment of Mr KNUDSEN as acting Director-General for Personnel by decision of the Secretary-General;
- decided to launch the procedure for the filling of the post of Director-General for Personnel.



9. Appeal of a Member pursuant to rule 167 of the Rules of Procedure against sanctions imposed on him pursuant to rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- took note of an appeal from Mr SELIMOVIC, Member, pursuant to rule 167 of the Rules of Procedure, against the President's decision of 22 November 2016 imposing on him the sanction of a reprimand pursuant to rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure (PE 595.204/BUR and annexes), forwarded under a separate confidential cover;
- heard the President explain that the origin of this case was the unanimous recommendation of the Advisory Committee dealing with Harassment Complaints between APAs and Members, that Mr SELIMOVIC, Member, is found guilty of psychological harassment against his three APAs, Mr Christian JULIUSSON, Ms Madelene SUNDKVIST and Mr Mark ARLESTRAND; a recommendation that, after thorough examination of the facts and the legal assessment he shared and had followed, in full consideration of the arguments brought forward in writing by the Member concerned to his defence;
- heard the President propose that the members of the Bureau reject the appeal from Mr SELIMOVIC, Member, and confirm his decision of 22 November 2016 imposing on Mr SELIMOVIC, Member, the sanction of a reprimand;
- rejected unanimously the appeal from Mr SELIMOVIC, Member, and confirmed the decision of the President of 22 November 2016, imposing on Mr SELIMOVIC, Member, the sanction of a reprimand.

**B. DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE**10. State of play of the modernisation of Parliament's catering policy 2014-2019 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of a note dated 5 December 2016 from the Secretary-General on the 'State of play of the modernisation of Parliament's catering policy 2014-2019' (PE 595.191/BUR and annex);
- heard Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor responsible for Members' restaurants, highlight the recent improvements implemented in the catering services, notably through the termination of the previous monopole and the introduction of several changes requested by Members, in particular to accommodate different food habits, thank DG INLO for their excellent work in this field and the other Quaestors for their support; in Strasbourg, warm meals are now offered throughout the afternoon and a new sandwich outlet has been created; there are two new restaurants in Brussels, one serving organic food and the other Mediterranean-style food; the service "meet & eat" will be introduced in 2017; the fight against food waste has also been developed by making available smaller portions and organising the donation of left-overs to charities; water fountains have also started to be installed;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms LUNACEK, Mr PAPANIMOULIS, Vice-Presidents, and Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, who praised the successful implementation of the modernisation of the catering services and complimented Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor responsible, and the responsible services of DG INLO;
- noted the progress achieved in the different areas of modernisation of Parliament's catering activities since its decision of 10 June 2013, while acknowledging that this process will continue;

- noted of the heavily reduced subsidies in this area;
- invited the Secretary-General to proceed with the strategy as outlined in his note.

11. Report on the activities and future development of the office of the Mediator for International Parental Child Abduction - Letter from Ms McGUINNESS, Vice-President

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter and the report dated 30 November 2016 from Ms McGUINNESS, Vice-President, on the activities and future development of the office of Parliament's Mediator for International Parental Child Abduction (PE 595.187/BUR and annex);
- took note of the current and past activities undertaken by Parliament's Mediator for International Parental Child Abduction;
- endorsed the proposals of the outgoing Parliament's Mediator for International Parental Child Abduction for consideration and possible implementation by the Vice-President appointed to the role for the second half of this parliamentary mandate.

12. House of European History - Letter from Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert POETTERING, President of the Board of Trustees of the House of European History

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted the letter dated 17 November 2016 from Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert POETTERING, President of the Board of Trustees of the House of European History, concerning the opening of the House of European History (PE 590.497/BUR);
- agreed on the recommendation that the official date be 4 May 2017 for the selected guests, followed by a public opening on 6 May 2017, coinciding with the “Open Days” of the European Institutions in Brussels.

13. Multilingualism - proposal to extend the derogation from Rule 158 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General on “Multilingualism - proposal to extend the derogations from Rule 158” (PE 595.180/BUR);
- noted that, as of 1 January 2017, despite sustained interinstitutional efforts,
  - there will be insufficient qualified interpreters available for Maltese and Croatian;
  - there will still be insufficient qualified interpreters, translators and lawyer-linguists available for Irish;
- extended the derogation under Rule 159 with respect to Maltese and Croatian interpretation until 30 June 2017;
- extended the derogation under Rule 159 with respect to Irish interpretation, translation and legal-linguistic finalisation until 30 June 2017;
- noted the specific actions undertaken in the second half of 2016 to prepare for and ensure the correct implementation within Parliament of Council Regulation 2015/2264 extending and phasing out the temporary derogation measures in respect of Irish.

14. Transmission of the conclusions of the meeting of the Board of the Konrad Adenauer Building on 10 October 2016 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the transmission of the conclusions of the meeting of the Board of the Konrad Adenauer Building on 10 October 2016 (PE 595.181/BUR and annex);
- took note of the conclusions of the Board of the Konrad Adenauer Building;
- heard Mr SASSOLI, Vice-President, note that the Board of the KAD building, of which he is a member, revised the target cost of the project and suggest instead that, in the interest of transparency, this should be done by the Bureau in cooperation with the Committee on Budgets;
- heard the Secretary-General explain that the target cost (which is only an estimate that is reviewed on the basis of information provided by the Administration with a view to acting as an alert for possible budget excesses) currently stands at EUR 406 Million; the total cost of the project (which cannot exceed EUR 432.8 Million) was set at political level by the Bureau and the Committee on Budgets in 2012; should the target cost approach that upper limit, the Administration would submit proposals to the Bureau for savings or for aligning the upper ceiling; in the past, the Bureau has agreed on savings twice, in 2011 and 2015; as things stand now, there is a leeway of EUR 26 Million with a high volume of contracts already being awarded, so risks should be kept in check;
- invited the President to transmit the conclusions for information to the Committee on Budgets.

15. Financial contribution for the Association of Former Members in 2017 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the financial contribution for the Association of Former Members in 2017 (PE 595.178/BUR);
- set the amount of the financial contribution to be granted to the Association of Former Members for 2017 at EUR 210,000, subject to the financial adoption of the budget;
- instructed the authorising officer to grant the amount so decided to the beneficiary in accordance with Article 3(3) of the above-mentioned rules.



16. Financial contribution for the European Parliamentary Association in 2017 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the financial contribution for the European Parliamentary Association in 2017 (PE 595.177/BUR);
- set the amount of the financial contribution to be granted to the European Parliamentary Association for 2017 at EUR 210,000, subject to the final adoption of the budget;
- instructed the authorising officer to grant the amount so decided to the beneficiary in accordance with Article 3(3) of the above-mentioned rules.

17. Adjustment of Members' General Expenditure allowances and Members' Travel and Subsistence allowances - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of a note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the adjustment of Members' General Expenditure allowance and Members' Travel and Subsistence allowances (PE 595.182/BUR and annexes);
- took note of a draft Bureau decision amending the Implementing Measures for the Members' Statute (IMMS) (PE 422.536/BUR/Amending decision 14);
- heard Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President, note that the very modest increases in some allowances for 2017 (EUR 1 for the daily allowance and EUR 22 for the general expenditure allowance) are of questionable usefulness and request, on behalf of the S&D Group, that these increases be foregone;
- heard Ms LUNACEK, Vice-President:
  - point out that there is no need for the various allowances to be increased on a yearly basis,
  - recall that Parliament's resolution on the 2014 discharge asks for full transparency on the general expenditure allowance and invite the Bureau to follow through on that decision; questioning the long period of inactivity on this matter and calling on the President to submit a proposal to the Bureau;
- heard Mr CZARNECKI, Vice-President, note that this is an important matter in terms of public relations too and wonder if it makes sense at all to proceed with this modest increase;

- heard Mr PAPANIMOU, Vice-President, propose that, should it be possible from a legal point of view, the general expenditure allowance be maintained at the 2016 level so that not to provide ammunition to all sorts of populists;
- heard Mr LAMBSDORFF, Vice-President:
  - point out that the proposed increases are technical adjustments and the figures involved are very low,
  - disagree with Ms LUNACEK's request concerning the general expenditure allowance underlining that it is a flat-rate amount and that reimbursement based on supporting documents would require additional supporting staff per Member to deal with the resulting burden;
- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President:
  - agree with Mr LAMBSDORFF on the general expenditure allowance pointing out that it is a flat-rate sum set out in the Members' Statute and its Implementing Measures,
  - underline that the proposed allowance increases for 2017 are technical adjustments and that populists would be delighted (particularly in an election year) by any delay of the decision;
- heard the President:
  - point out that the proposed increases are automatic adjustments stemming from the Members' Statute,
  - underline that the general expenditure allowance is a flat-rate sum and that the Bureau has time and again declined to agree on the defrayal of that allowance being made on the basis of supporting documents, as this would require an important increase in human and administrative resources at a time when the Secretariat-General of the Parliament is forced to carry out staff cuts,

- indicate that DG FINS is currently working on clarifications as to what use can be made of the general expenditure allowance and the Secretary-General will submit proposals to that effect to the Bureau at a forthcoming meeting;
- amended as proposed, following a vote carried by majority, the corresponding Articles<sup>1</sup> of the Implementing measures for the Statute for Members of the European Parliament and mandated the Secretary-General to proceed with the necessary publication in the Official Journal;
- adopted, following a vote, a Bureau decision amending accordingly the Implementing Measures for the Members' Statute (IMMS) to be published in the Official Journal.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 15(c), Article 20, Article 22(1) and (3), Article 24(2) and Article 26(2).

18. Adjustment for 2016 of the maximum monthly amount of parliamentary assistance expenses and monthly ceilings for the remuneration or fees of local assistants

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the adjustment for 2016 of the maximum monthly amount of parliamentary assistance expenses and monthly ceilings for the remuneration or fees of local assistants (PE 595.183/BUR and annex);
- took note of a draft Bureau Decision amending the Implementing Measures for the Members' Statute (IMMS) (PE 422.536/BUR/Amending decision 14);
- adjusted the maximum monthly defrayable amount of parliamentary assistance expenses as provided for in Article 33(4) of the Implementing Measures for the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, increasing it to EUR 24,164 with effect from 1 July 2016;
- instructed the Secretary-General to take the necessary action in order to publish the amendment to Article 33(4) of the Implementing Measures for the Members' Statute (IMMS) in the Official Journal and to publish the new earnings or fee ceilings on the intranet website of the European Parliament.

19. Historical Archives of the European Parliament: Annual report 2015 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the ‘Historical Archives of the European Parliament: Annual Report 2015’ (PE 595.184/BUR and annex);
- took note of the twelfth Annual Report of Parliament’s Historical Archives;
- authorised its distribution and notification to the other institutions and publication on the Parliament’s intranet and website.

20. Opening of the central attendance register on 9 May 2017 - Letter from Mr KARSKI, Chair-in-Office of the Quaestors

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 24 November 2016 from Mr KARSKI, Chair-in-Office of the Quaestors, concerning the opening of the central register on 9 May 2017, which is a public holiday for the European Institutions (PE 595.154/BUR and annex);
- noted that in 2017 the 9 May falls on a Tuesday in the middle of a normal working week (mixed group and committee week) before the May part-session in Strasbourg and there may be commemorative events to attend, including those linked to the official opening of the European House of History;
- decided to authorise, exceptionally, the inclusion of Tuesday 9 May 2017 as a day on which the central register will be open for signing, albeit with a restricted opening time from 10.00 to 16.00, for those Members who will attest their attendance by signature in the Register on the day before (Monday 8 May) and on the day after (Wednesday 10 May);
- agreed to forward its decision to the Quaestors to inform all Members accordingly.

21. IT - Rome - Authorisation to launch a market prospection - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the Secretary-General's note dated 5 December 2016 concerning authorisation to launch a market prospection relating to the House of Europe in Rome (PE 595.193/BUR);
- approved the launch of a market prospection, to be conducted jointly with the Commission, with the aim of finding a building which fulfils the criteria of a House of Europe, notably in terms of its location, footfall, visibility and the envisaged functionality as well as its rental price, quality of infrastructure, access to persons of reduced mobility, energy performance and public transport access.



22. Report on the activities of the Advisory Committee dealing with harassment complaints between APAs and Members 2014-2016 - Letter from Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor and Chair of the Advisory Committee

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- took note of the letter and the report dated 30 November 2016 from Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor and Chair of the Advisory Committee dealing with harassment complaints between APAs and Members, concerning the activities of the Advisory Committee in 2014-2016 (PE 595.170/BUR and annex);
- took note of the facts and figures relating to the cases the Committee has dealt with between 2014 and 2016 and the typology of acts of harassment it has encountered;
- took note of the difficulties the Committee has faced during its first full mandate, the solutions it has found and the challenges which still remain in this area, particularly as regards the need for absolute confidentiality, the logistics and the length of the procedures;
- heard Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor and Chair of the Advisory Committee dealing with harassment complaints between APAs and Members, present the work of the Committee during these 2,5 years, thank the services involved for their important help, outline the findings and recommendations of the report and note that, as she had been made aware by some members of the Bureau of translation problems, she proposed that the adoption of the report is postponed to the next Bureau meeting in order to allow the services to ensure the linguistic quality and accuracy of all translations;
- decided to postpone the adoption of the report to the next meeting.

Committee missions within the EU, the candidate countries and the EEA countries23. Request for authorisation of STOA missions within the EU, the candidate and the EEA countries for the first semester of 2017 - Letter from Mr RÜBIG, Chair of the STOA Panel

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted the letter dated 14 November 2016 from Mr RÜBIG, Chair of the STOA Panel, requesting authorisation for the following STOA missions in the course of 2017 (PE 590.482/CPG and financial statements):
  - Institut Pasteur, 27 January 2017, Paris, France (up to three Members),
  - European Networks and Information Security Agency (ENISA), 6 to 8 April 2017 (tbc), Heraklion/Athens, Greece (up to three Members),
  - Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum Council meeting, 5 May 2017 (tbc), London (one Member),
  - Zagreb and Dubrovnik, Croatia, 22 to 24 May 2017 (up to three Members),
  - Science on Stage event, 29 June to 2 July 2017, Debrecen, Hungary (up to three Members);
- noted that these missions are further to the six proposed delegations outside the European Union, plus the 12th annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) scheduled for November 2017 to a currently unknown venue;
- noted the substantial increase of STOA missions and delegations over the last few years;
- noted the absence of justification concerning the choice of dates for certain visits (Institut Pasteur, Paris: Friday 27 January 2017; ENISA, Greece: 6-8 April 2017 (tbc) partly coinciding with the Strasbourg part-session);

- approved the visit to Paris, on the condition that it takes place on a date falling within a week set aside for external parliamentary activities;
- noted that ITRE (which is represented in the STOA Panel by six Members) will visit ENISA in week 8 (20-24 February 2017); requested that the two bodies coordinate their programmes to the greatest possible extent, preferably forming a joint mission to ENISA to be held in week 8 with a view to avoiding multiple visits and ensuring cost efficiency; furthermore requested that the same approach be adopted by STOA for any future visits to Agencies which are part of the remit of the committees represented in the STOA Panel;
- approved the mission to London;
- deferred its decision on the proposed visit to Croatia on 22-24 May 2017 (a week set aside for external parliamentary activities), pending justification concerning the programme and in particular the reasons for which the visit has to include not only the capital, Zagreb, but also Dubrovnik;
- noted that the “Science to Stage” event, scheduled from 29 June to 2 July 2017 in Debrecen, Hungary, is a festival organised by “Science on Stage Europe e.V.”, which, according to its website “... is a network of and for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teachers of all school levels, provides a European platform for the exchange of teaching ideas and highlights the importance of science and technology in schools and among the public”; noted that the nature of the event in question does not tally with STOA’s primary objective and therefore declined authorisation of the proposed mission.

24. Request from the Committee on International Trade to reschedule its mission to Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey, to week 51, from 19 to 21 December 2016 - Letter from Mr LANGE, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted the letter dated 18 October 2016 from Mr LANGE, Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA), requesting authorisation to reschedule its proposed mission (composed of nine Members including himself travelling out-of-quota pursuant to Article 2(3) of the applicable Rules) to Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey, on 19 - 21 December 2016, plus two additional days for travel (PE 595.149/CPG, annexes and financial statement);
- recalled that the mission, initially scheduled for the second semester of 2015, had to be deferred twice, the second time owing to security concerns;
- noted that the dates currently proposed for the mission coincide with a period set aside for external parliamentary activities;
- recalled that, in its resolution on EU-Turkey relations, adopted on 24 November 2016, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to initiate a temporary freeze of the ongoing accession negotiations with Turkey, in view of the disproportionate repressive measures taken in Turkey since the failed military coup attempt in July 2016;
- noted the negative recommendation issued by the Conference of Presidents at its meeting of 30 November 2016;
- decided, in view of the current political situation in Turkey, not to authorise the mission at this juncture.

25. Request from the Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion to send a mission to Valetta, Malta, during week 8 (20 to 24 February 2017) - Letter from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted the letter dated 28 November 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, providing additional information on several requests from committees concerning the programme of committee missions within the EU during the first semester of 2017, which includes a request from Mr LANGEN, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA), for authorisation of an eleven-Member mission (including himself travelling out-of-quota pursuant to Article 2(3) of the applicable Rules) to Valetta, Malta, scheduled for week 8 (duration: one day excluding travel time) (PE 595.153/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that the request was included in the draft programme of committee missions within the EU during the first semester of 2017 and that, at its meeting of 21 November 2016, the Bureau considered the request, together with other requests from committees for missions to Member States holding or taking over the rotating Council Presidency in 2017 (Malta and Estonia);
- furthermore recalled that the Bureau took the view that visits to these countries were not always justified and that committees should favour meetings with the relevant representatives within the framework of regular committee meetings instead;
- recalled that, in the light of the above, the Bureau, following a recommendation by the Conference of Presidents of 17 November 2016, declined to authorise the PANA mission to Valetta, Malta;
- noted that the dates proposed for the mission coincide with days set aside for external parliamentary activities;

- noted the positive recommendation issued by the Conference of Presidents on 30 November 2016 in the light of additional information provided by PANA;
- granted the requested authorisation.

26. Request from the Committee on Transport and Tourism to send a mission to Vilnius, Lithuania, and Tallinn, Estonia, from 22 to 24 May 2017 - Letter from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted the letter dated 28 November 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, providing additional information on several requests from committees concerning the programme of committee missions within the EU during the first semester of 2017, which includes a request from Mr CRAMER, Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), for authorisation of a seven-Member mission (including himself travelling out-of-quota pursuant to Article 2(3) of the applicable Rules) to Vilnius, Lithuania, and Tallinn, Estonia, scheduled from 22 to 24 May 2017, including journey times (a period set aside for external parliamentary activities) (PE 595.153/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that the request was included in the draft programme of committee missions within the EU during the first semester of 2017 and that, at its meeting of 21 November 2016, the Bureau considered the request, together with other requests from committees for missions to Member States holding or taking over the rotating Council Presidency in 2017 (Malta and Estonia);
- furthermore recalled that the Bureau took the view that visits to these countries were not always justified and that committees should favour meetings with the relevant representatives within the framework of regular committee meetings instead;
- recalled that, in the light of the above, the Bureau, following a recommendation by the Conference of Presidents of 17 November 2016, had declined to authorise the TRAN mission to Vilnius, Lithuania, and Tallinn, Estonia;

- noted the positive recommendation issued by the Conference of Presidents on 30 November 2016 in the light of additional information provided by TRAN;
- granted the requested authorisation.



Public Hearings

27. Request from the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) for authorisation of public hearings on 24 January 2017 - Letter from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 30 November 2016 from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurement in the Automotive Sector (EMIS), requesting authorisation to hold a public hearing on 24 January 2017, related to the mandate of the Committee (PE 595.160/BUR and financial statement);
- took note that the requested hearing was not included in the programme of committees' public hearings for the first half of 2017, approved by the Bureau on 21 November 2016, and therefore requires a specific individual authorisation under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;
- regretted that the EMIS Committee did not submit a draft programme of its hearings for the first half of 2017 and until its term of office, as requested by Article 3(2) of the applicable Rules;
- took note of Rule 198(7) of the Rules of Procedure whereby the travel and accommodation expenses of members and officials of Union institutions and bodies who appear before a committee of inquiry will be borne by those institutions and bodies, whereas travel and accommodation expenses of other persons who appear before a committee of inquiry shall be reimbursed by the European Parliament in accordance with the rules governing hearings of experts;
- recalled that each committee may hear a maximum of sixteen guests each year whose expenses will be covered and noted, therefore, that the EMIS Committee, as

a Committee of Inquiry with a 12-month term of office, may hear sixteen paid guests from the start of its work until the end of this 12-month term of office;

- took note that the requested hearings are expected to take place on a date and time set aside for meetings of the EMIS Committee and that none of the experts will require the reimbursement of expenses;
- granted the authorisation requested under the above mentioned terms and on the understanding that the EMIS Committee will remain within its 12-month term of office quota, as, beyond this ceiling, guests cannot be reimbursed;
- invited the EMIS Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearings, of the final programme and the names and capacities of all invited experts.

28. Urgent matters and any other business28.1. Request from the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to authorise the provision of active Polish interpretation for the 32nd Plenary Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 21 December 2016 – Letter from Mr MICHEL, Chair of the Delegation to ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

The Bureau, with debate,

- noted the letter dated 6 December 2016 from Mr MICHEL, Chair of the Delegation to ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, requesting authorisation to provide active Polish interpretation for the 32nd Plenary Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 21 December 2016 (PE 595.215/BUR, annex and financial statement);
- noted that, according to Article 1(b)(i) of the applicable rules, interpretation for the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly shall be provided as a general rule in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, and other languages (such as the language of the Council Presidency) might be considered under exceptional circumstances;
- noted that the letter of the Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly fails to provide any explanations about the exceptional circumstances for the provision of an additional interpretation language in this instance, and Polish is not the language of the current Council Presidency;
- noted that, according to Article 1(b)(i) of the applicable rules, if it is established two weeks before a scheduled meeting that fewer than three Members using any one of the above mentioned six languages will attend, interpretation will not be provided in the language(s) concerned; noted that although, according to the Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, it was known already on 25 November 2016 that there will be only one Italian and two Portuguese Members attending, passive interpretation in Italian and Portuguese

will still be provided, and an additional request for active Polish interpretation has been submitted;

- noted that although the specific interpretation requirements were known already since 25 November 2016 the Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly wrote only on 6 December 2016 (i.e. more than ten days later) to the President to request a derogation for active Polish interpretation, thus not allowing the Bureau to examine the matter properly, but only as a matter of urgency;
- noted that the overall cost for the provision of interpretation for this meeting will be EUR 228,284, EUR 44,184 of which for the additional active interpretation in Polish;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms LUNACEK, Mr WIELAND and Mr LAMBSDORFF, Vice-Presidents, and the President, who noted that the request for interpretation had been submitted very late, thus further increasing the interpretation costs, and that the relevant rules both for delegation travels and for interpretation might need to be reviewed in the future in order to deal more effectively with such matters;
- authorised exceptionally the request in this instance and asked the Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to ensure in the future that the Delegation abides by the applicable rules and that any requests for derogation are amply justified and submitted in good time to allow Parliament's governing bodies to examine them properly.

## 28.2. Miscellaneous - Issues raised by Mr PASÇU

The Bureau, with debate,

- heard Mr PASÇU, Vice-President, raise three matters, namely:

- express concerns about the administrative burden in the implementation of the rules on the payment of subsidies to visitors' groups, that the Bureau recently approved;
  - criticise the apparent inflexibility of some of Parliament's services in applying deadlines as one of his assistants was refused the submission of documents for just a three minute delay after the expiry of the deadline at 18.00, but are very permissive when it comes to delay reimbursements of travel expenses for Members, even for 2 months;
  - ask the Secretary-General to examine the matter of a translator who in a letter addressed to him expressed criticism on the content of a written declaration he had tabled;
- took note of the matters raised by Mr PASÇU, Vice-President.

29. Items for information

The Bureau,

took note of:

Interinstitutional mail

External mail

Internal mail

- a note dated 30 November 2016 from the Secretary-General on Stocktaking of main Information and Communication Policy decisions in 2014-2016 (PE 595.186/BUR).

30. Date and place of next meeting

The Bureau,

- decided to hold its next meeting on **16 January 2017**, from **18:30 to 20:30**, in **Room R1.1** in the **Louise WEISS Building** in **Strasbourg**.

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The meeting closed at 20.23 hours.

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